

1 VOTING DEVICE WITH IMMEDIATE ENHANCED FEEDBACK

2 Abstract of the Disclosure

3 ~~All data registering devices, including voting machines, are subject to~~
4 ~~error, either from human lapses or mechanical malfunction.~~ The object of the
5 present invention is to disclose a punch-card voting device that ~~incorporates~~
6 ~~features that immediately alert~~ alerts the user to the fact that ~~an a~~
7 punching error has occurred, ~~before it is too late for the user to correct~~
8 ~~it.~~ In voting devices that produce a machine-processable record card, such as
9 the Votomatic ~~and the Pell Star~~, votes are counted photo-electrically by
10 shining a light through holes punched in the ballot card. According to the
11 present invention, the greatest certainty regarding what punch-outs represent
12 a valid vote can be obtained only if the same principle is employed to inform
13 the voter as to whether or not his punch-out is ~~or is not in the intended~~
14 ~~position and is a complete punch-out~~ going to count. To provide the voter
15 ~~with~~ this verification, backlighting is introduced that directs a beam of
16 light upward through each punch-out toward the voter's eye. To achieve the
17 optimum results, ~~which demand that the frequency of faulty ballots be less~~
18 ~~than about one percent, the special backlighting features employed are~~ this
19 backlighting is combined with mechanical improvements that minimize defective
20 punch-outs.

21 20R 21R